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December 31, 2001  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

By: *Kelli J. Endreson*

PATENT

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Timothy J. Reardon *et al.*

SERIAL NO.: 09/893,316

FILED: June 26, 2001

FOR: SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSING  
APPARATUS

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JAN 18 2002

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EXAMINER:

ART UNIT: 1734

CONFIRMATION NO.: 2811

ATTY DOCKET NO.: 29195-8161US1

*HJL*  
1/23/02

**Information Disclosure Statement Within Three Months of  
Application Filing or Before First Action – 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**1. Timing of Submission**

This information disclosure is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever occurs last [37 CFR 1.97(b)]. The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

**2. Cited Information**

Copies of the following references are enclosed:

- All cited references
- References not marked by asterisks
- The following:

Copies of the following references can be found in parent applications Serial No. 09/575,965 filed May 23, 2000; Serial No. 08/883,393 filed June 26, 1997 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,066,575); Serial No. 08/422,485 filed April 12, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,658,387); Serial No. 07/855,767 filed March 18, 1992 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,431,421); Serial No. 07/665,942 filed March 6, 1991 (now U.S.

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Patent No. 5,235,995); and Serial No. 07/526,243 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,188,887), priority to each of which is claimed under 35 USC §120:

- All cited references
  - References marked by asterisks
  - The following:
    - The following references are not in English. For each such reference, the undersigned has enclosed (i) a translation of the reference; (ii) a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office or International Searching Authority citing the reference, (iii) a copy of a reference which appears to be an English-language counterpart, or (iv) an English-language abstract for the reference prepared by a third party. Applicant has not verified that the translation, English-language counterpart or third-party abstract is an accurate representation of the teachings of the non-English reference, though, and reserves the right to demonstrate otherwise.
    - All cited references
    - References marked by ampersands
    - The following:
3. Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 CFR 1.97(h))
- This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment

No fees are believed due. However, should the Commissioner determine that fees are due in order for this Information Disclosure Statement to be considered, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

5. Patent Term Adjustment (37 CFR 1.704(d))

- The undersigned states that each item of information submitted herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 21 Dec 01



Edward S. Hotchkiss  
Registration No. 33,904

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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p> <p>Substitute for form 1449A PTO JAN 15 2002 CAB</p>				<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>		
				<b>Application Number</b>	09/893,316	
				<b>Confirmation Number</b>	2811	
				<b>Filing Date</b>	06/26/2001	
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Timothy J. Reardon et al.	
				<b>Group Art Unit</b>	1734	
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	JAN 18 2002 RECEIVED USPTO	
Sheet	1	of	5	Attorney Docket No.	29195-8161US	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
<b>*EXAMINER INITIALS*</b>	<b>Cite No.</b>	<b>U.S. Patent Document</b>		<b>Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document</b>	<b>Date of Publication of Cited Document</b>	<b>Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear</b>
		<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>Kind Code (if known)</b>			
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		3,770,598		Creutz	11/6/73	
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		4,351,266		Ando et al.	9/28/82	
		4,373,988		Bauser et al.	2/15/83	

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
<b>* EXAMINER:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s).	

JAN 15 2002				<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
<p>Substitute for form 1449. PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				<b>Application Number</b>	09/893,316
				<b>Confirmation Number</b>	2811
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				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Timothy J. Reardon et al.
				<b>Group Art Unit</b>	1734
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Sheet</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Attorney Docket No.</b> 29195-8161US	
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**O P E C A S**

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
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				<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
				<b>Application Number</b>	09/893,316
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				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Timothy J. Reardon et al.
				<b>Group Art Unit</b>	1734
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
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**COMPLETE IF KNOWN**

Application Number	09/893,316
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First Named Inventor	Timothy J. Reardon et al.
Group Art Unit	1734
Examiner Name	

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*EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office	Number	Kind Code (if known)			
		EPO	EP0184279	Hillman et al.	6/11/86		
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&	JPO	JP 04131395		Toru et al.	5/6/92		

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JAN 15 2002 Substitute for form 1449, 7-90 <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)					<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>		
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					<b>Confirmation Number</b>	2811	
					<b>Filing Date</b>	06/26/2001	
					<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Timothy J. Beardon et al.	
					<b>Group Art Unit</b>	1734	
					<b>Examiner Name</b>	JC 18 2002	
Sheet		5	of	5	Attorney Docket No.	29195-8161US	
	&	JPO	JP 04280993		Hirobumi et al.	10/6/92	RECEIVED JUN 10 2002 JUO
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		PCT	WO 97/12079		Crafts et al.	4/3/97	
<b>OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b>							
*EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume/issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.					T
		Evan E. Patton, et al., "Automated Gold Plate-Up Bath Scope Document and Machine Specifications", Tektronix Confidential, dated August 4, 1989, pages 1-13.					
		Tektronix Invention Disclosure Form (Company Confidential), not dated, 4 pages.					

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